Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Industrial Division, ORR   DATE: 5 May 1959
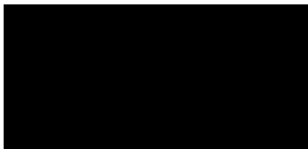
FROM : Chief, Producers' Equipment Branch, ORR

SUBJECT: Suggested exchanges for 1960.

    1. It is recommended that exploratory arrangements be made for exchanges in the fields of antifriction bearings and railroad car manufacturing.

    2. The USSR bearings industry has grown rapidly in recent years and has been placing considerable emphasis on mechanization and automation. Only one of the ten bearings manufacturing plants has been shown regularly to Western visitors. One other has been shown to Joseph Alsop and to an American chiropractor. The other eight plants have in effect been closed to Westerners. Exchanges would make it possible to determine to what extent advance technology employed at the Number One Bearings Plant in Moscow is used throughout the industry. It would also be desirable to find out how much use the Soviets are making of the new materials for bearings about which they have written in periodical articles. It might also be possible to gain some information on how well the industry is doing in the field of miniature bearings which are receiving increasingly wide application in instrumentation. All ten Soviet bearings producers are located in cities of guided missile interest.

    3. In the production of railway cars, Soviet technology differs little from that employed in the US. Production runs, however, are much larger in the US. The industry is of intelligence interest for two reasons: No Americans have visited any Soviet railway car plants and it would therefore be desirable to verify press and periodical information on the industry; and secondly, plant visits might provide some additional clues on railway cars used in transporting guided missiles. It may at least be possible to establish what plants are not engaged in the production of such cars. The industry is also of interest in that the largest railway car plant is also the largest producer of medium tanks in the USSR.

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